



United States Department of Interior
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Bureau of Land Management

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DILLON - The Dillon Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management plans to analyze the existing resource conditions on public lands administered by the BLM within the Centennial and Big Sheep Creek Watersheds this summer. The five standards for rangeland health will be reviewed on an allotment by allotment basis to determine whether or not the standards are being met.

Standards include: maintaining properly functioning upland and riparian areas, assuring that water quality and air quality meet State standards, and providing for biodiversity. Forest health, fuels conditions and conifer encroachment issues are included within the land health standards. Where standards for land health are not met, contributing factors will be identified and recommendations for corrective action will be presented.

National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) documents will be prepared to analyze alternatives for revised management where resource concerns are found within these watersheds. The assessments, determinations and any necessary NEPA documents will be completed by resource specialists from the Dillon Field Office in coordination with permittees/lessees, other agencies and the interested public.

If there are enough people interested, the BLM will hold a public meeting in Lima to provide more information about this process. The BLM also plans to host a one day field trip for all interested people, groups or agencies in each watershed after the field assessments have been completed this summer.

If you would like to know more about this process or have information or data that may be helpful to BLM, please call (406) 683-2337 or email <http://www.mt.blm.gov/dfo>. The BLM looks forward to your interest and input in the Centennial and Big Sheep Creek Watershed Assessments.